

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 18 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed
to the President of the Security Council**

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the most recent act of vandalism committed by ethnic Albanian extremists in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

During the night between 16 and 17 July 2000, ethnic Albanian terrorists dynamited the Orthodox Church of St. Elijah in the village of Pomazatin, Municipality of Kosovo Polje. The church had already been dynamited and burned on 3 August 1999 and has now been razed to the ground.

The crime is yet another instance in the series of terrorist and barbaric acts, aimed at accelerating the process of the ethnic cleansing of Serbs and other non-Albanians from Kosovo and Metohija. I recall that 87 Orthodox churches and monasteries have been destroyed in this Serbian province so far. The shrines of Orthodox Christianity have been targeted by ethnic Albanian extremists as they represent the source of spirituality and exemplify the centuries-long presence of the Serbs in Kosovo and Metohija. The targets are also isolated and vulnerable Serbian enclaves and the goal of the terrorists is to intimidate the Serbs and force them to leave their ancestral homes.

The dynamiting of the Church of St. Elijah at Pomazatin is yet another piece of evidence of the dramatic deterioration of the overall situation in Kosovo and Metohija and of the cultural genocide conducted against the Serbian people through terror and vandalism. The crime that came in the wake of the shelling of Velika Hoca, Gorazdevac and the Roma refugee camp in northern Kosovska Mitrovica provides also eloquent proof that the terrorist so-called Kosovo Liberation Army has not been demilitarized and disarmed.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to strongly condemn the dynamiting of the Church of St. Elijah and to enjoin the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) to take all necessary measures to find and punish the perpetrators of this criminal act and to prevent the destruction of the Serbian cultural and religious heritage in Kosovo and Metohija.



I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav Jovanovic
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
